



## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen**

Date: Monday, July 13, 2015 – Business Meeting  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA  
Present: Chairman G. Woodbury, Vice Chair Stevens, Clerk C. Woodbury, Members Fritze & Pepe and Administrator Gaudette.

At 6:00 p.m. Chairman Woodbury called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Minutes**

*A motion to approve the Business Meeting minutes of the June 8, 2015 as amended (Pepe/Fritze) passed 5/0.*

### **Citizen Input**

None

### **Communications:**

None

### **New Business**

#### **Congratulatory Introduction: Officer Norman Hodgerney promoted to Sergeant of the Police Department**

Chief Darrin announced that Norm Hodgerney was promoted to Police Sergeant. After competing with 9 other Police Officers, he scored at the top of the list in all areas involved in the process.

Sergeant Hodgerney's father, Norm Sr., pinned his uniform with the pin for Sergeant rank. Representatives Durant and Berthiaume congratulated him and presented a Citation from the House of Representatives.

Sergeant Hodgerney said he was humbled and thanked all who came out to support him.

#### **Action Item: Paul Lemieux from MHPI – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Prouty 5K Challenge and 1-Mile Family Run/Walk to be held on Saturday, September 12, 2015**

Paul Lemieux, representative from MHPI gave a brief presentation regarding the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Prouty 5K Challenge and 1-Mile Family Run/Walk. Mr. Lemieux noted that all proceeds from this event go to benefit Spencer and the surrounding communities. He asked for the Board's approval to move forward with the event.

*A motion to approve the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Prouty 5K Challenge and 1-Mile Family Run/Walk to be held on Saturday, September 12, 2015 (Pepe/C.Woodbury) passed 5/0.*

#### **Action Item: Sign Agreement for Planning Assistance Services with PVPC**

Since Planner Michelle Buck accepted the position of full time Planner in Leicester, Administrator Gaudette has been looking for creative ways to provide the Town with an experienced person. He

worked with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) on a Planning and Zoning Assistance Services Agreement to provide immediate support utilizing experienced Planner, Larry Smith. Mr. Gaudette mentioned the great working relationship the Town has with PVPC on the CDBG Grant and advised the Board to sign this Agreement.

*A motion to authorize the Administrator to sign the Agreement with PVPC for Planning and Zoning assistance for FY16 (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.*

## **Old Business**

### **Discussion: Comprehensive Roads Project Funding Approval Process**

Administrator Gaudette reported there has been ongoing discussion over how to fund various road projects in Town. At this point, a decision must be made on the funding process as some roads are in very bad shape and the number continues to grow. The Town receives \$500,000 in Chapter 90 funds annually, which is far below what is needed. He asked the Board to determine how they wish to move forward to address this critical issue noting it can be dealt with through a Special Election and a Town Meeting, either way the number will be above Proposition 2 ½.

Selectmen Pepe wants to obtain the most feedback from residents by scheduling multiple public hearings and any other avenues to get the word out.

Selectmen G. Woodbury wants to develop a process that ensures the public is well educated.

Mr. Gaudette suggests creating a subcommittee with two board members to develop a process. He will reach out to members of the Financial Management Planning Committee (FMPC) and report back.

There was some discussion on expanding the hours for voting during elections from 7 am to 8 pm. The Town Clerk and the Registrars will be invited to a future meeting for further discussion.

### **Discussion: Ambulance Services Agreement (expires June 30, 2016)**

The Administrator reported that the agreement with Spencer Rescue Squad (SRS) will expire on June 30, 2016 and asked the Board for their thoughts for the next agreement. Selectmen C. Woodbury wants to check into other providers and obtain quotes for the same services. Mr. Fritze suggests having the Fire Department take it over. Additional discussion will take place, in the meantime, Mr. Gaudette will inform SRS of the Board's intentions as a courtesy.

## **Town Administrator Report**

### **Recommendation for Committees/Policy Establishment – Building Reuse Committee and Landfill Solar Development/Lease Committee**

There was discussion on creative ways to increase the revenue structure. New committees to review reuse options for vacant Town-owned buildings and to pursue a solar farm at the Landfill are options that will help move these important projects forward and bring in additional revenue. Mr. G. Woodbury pointed out that a solar farm at the Transfer Station would likely result in \$100,000 in additional revenue each year.

## **Board Liaison Reports- Chairman Assignments**

Mr. Gaudette asked the Board to review the list of 30 Liaison Assignments and to each choose 6. The Chair will meet with the Administrator to coordinate a final list.

## **Citizen Input**

Carl Kwiatkowski, 113 Meadow Rd. asked about replacing the pipe from the Sugden Building over Main St. prior to work being done. Mr. Fritze indicated it would be resolved prior to any road repairs.

Mike Toomey, Ash St., said write-offs for ambulance services should be made available to any competing ambulance companies. He also noted that Route 31 is a major downfall for economic development and long-term plans to address the issue are needed. Mr. Gaudette said work is being done to obtain plans for funding sources, including Mass DOT.

## **Board Member & Staff Comments**

Mr. Stevens asked the Board to authorize him to submit a letter in support of the Library Director's grant submission for the Mass Memories Road Show.

*A motion to authorize Mr. Stevens to write a letter of support for the Library Director to submit a grant for the Mass Memories Road Show (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed 5/0.*

Mr. Stevens is moving forward with the coordination of a Town-wide yard sale. He will arrange to have information posted on the Town website to asking for residents to be involved in this effort.

## **Request for Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 30A, §21(a), ¶2, for purposes of discussing contract negotiations with nonunion personnel**

*At 8:04 p.m. a motion to meet in Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, § 21 (a), ¶2, for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, as the chair has decided that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body (Pepe/C. Woodbury) passed with a roll call vote: G. Woodbury-yes, C. Woodbury -yes, Fritze-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes.*

Mr. G. Woodbury announced the meeting will reconvene only to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie  
Administrative Assistant

## **Referenced Materials**

PVPC Agreement  
Ambulance Services Agreement